



## Dundaff Street reopened....

IN A BRIEF CEREMONY held last Thursday, Mayor Fred Mancuso cut a ribbon to officially reopen Dundaff Street. Representatives of local government, the Carbondale Area Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the contractor, area banks and manufacturing plants, Our

Lady of Mount Carmel Church, and local residents participated in the ceremony. In photo at left, workmen remove "Road Closed" signs, signaling motorists that they may once again take the most direct route from Carbondale's West Side to the downtown area. (NEWS Photo)

Our 111th year of serving the Carbondale area - home of Regina Fasczewski

# Carbondale News

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25¢

Inside...

Parishioners  
restore statue  
page 14



## Leo Buscaglia charms audience, encourages "celebrate life"

At 1:30 in the morning last Sunday, the junior at Carbondale Area High School finally closed the doors to the gymnasium as Dr. Folio Leonardo Buscaglia, world renowned author, humanist, and "lover," signed his last autograph and hugged the last member of the audience. Leo, who prefers his middle name because Folio is usually mispronounced, had concluded a lecture titled "Opening The Ribbon On The Christmas Gift of Love."

The lecture which was sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish attracted the largest crowd ever at the Carbondale Area gymnasium. Approximately 1,000 people came from a three state area to listen to Leo speak on the subject most dear to him - how to "experience" life rather than just exist.

From the moment he entered the gym through a back entrance, it was clear that the audience was familiar with Leo's philosophy and his past work. The author of more than 20 half-dozen books, including the best sellers, Love and Living Loving And Learning, Leo has lectured throughout the country and has appeared on numerous television programs. The Carbondale audience, according to Leo, was one of the most attentive, loving, and appreciative he has ever witnessed.

The lecture was preceded by a number of special presentations designed to show Leo that he was regarded by the local population as someone truly special. Mayor Fred Mancuso presented the key to the city, Charlotte More read a state proclamation, and school board president Joe Falvo read welcoming remarks. Sister Cephas Ryan presented a gift on behalf of the health care agencies, Monsignor Moran gave welcoming remarks, and Father Galia and Leo Ann Cassaro presented Leo with a beautiful picture on behalf of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish family, created by Paul Roginski of Clark Summit.

Within the first 40 seconds of his talk, it was obvious that if nothing else, Leo Buscaglia was an outstanding public speaker. The voice, inflections, elocution, and body language which he demonstrated kept the audience spellbound. His professional speaking ability is no accident. Leo studied language and speech pathology and earned a Ph.D. in this subject area in 1960.

Illustrating past experiences of his youth, Leo told of the lessons his parents taught him about love, respect, values, and death. For a more detailed account of the lecture, see a related article on page 3. He said that the problem with the world

today is that most people are afraid of strangers who offer help or who try to greet them with a hug (Leo's trademark). The result is that society labels as phony anyone who tries to demonstrate that he truly loves his fellow man.

On Saturday night there was no question that Leo Buscaglia practiced what he preached. After his lecture ended at about 9:30, he agreed to stay and sign autographs and hug those people who wanted to meet him. According to assistant pastor Father Joseph Sica, Leo signed over a thousand autographs and hugged as many people. When he returned to the Mount Carmel rectory at 2:00 a.m., his hand was swollen from writing.

On Sunday Leo caught a 7:00 a.m. flight from Avoca to Los Angeles. On Monday he was due to leave on flight to Australia.

What kind of man is it that can demonstrate so much perpetual energy? Is Leo Buscaglia for real? In an exclusive interview with the NEWS on Saturday morning, Leo answered questions that gave a better insight of what it is that makes him tick.

Despite his hectic schedule, Leo said that he would not have missed his visit to Carbondale for anything because the invitation which he received (from Father Galia and Father Sica) was "the most gracious and beautiful and warm I have ever received in 20 years of lecturing, and it was just impossible to refuse the letters that were bubbling over with love and welcoming you like you were a brother." He added that the home cooked food and Christmas cookies and hugs from men and women that he received in Carbondale made it a wonderful experience for him.

Leo said that he grew up in Los Angeles, the son of Italian immigrants. "There were eleven of us in the family in a house that by today's standards should have been five," Leo said. "It was wonderful because we were never without people in all age groups. You could never be lonely. Looking back, we were never too far from despair and never too far from joy."

When asked how old he is, Leo responded, "I never tell anybody, because when people attach a number to you, they have a tendency to expect certain behavior from that number. To attach an age to you is a limiting factor. What difference does it make if I told you that I was 40 or 50 or 60?"

The distinguished visitor said that he feels that wisdom does not necessarily go along with age. "It

would be great if we all got wiser as we got older but sometimes we get more stupid as we get older." After some detective work the NEWS learned that Leo is between 55 and 60.

Prior to his arrival in northeastern Pennsylvania, Leo had stopped at the Mayo Clinic in Chicago for a complete physical exam. Recently he underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery. His doctors gave him a clean bill of health.

Asked how the heart surgery had affected his outlook on life, Leo responded, "I haven't changed my attitude but I've become more intense. I now recognize how frail is the human body."

An author of numerous books on the subject of love, Leo has often criticized scientists for their lack of research on the subject. When asked what research he has done himself, he said that he recently sent out a thousand questionnaires to people who had successful relationships of at least 30 years asking what qualities kept their relationship growing and loving and what qualities were destructive. The results will be the subject of his new book which will be titled Loving Each Other.

Reflecting on today's society which has witnessed a high divorce rate and a tendency for men and women to live together without marriage, Leo said that sometimes people have to experience for themselves the emptiness and loneliness that such relationships can develop. He feels that the old-fashioned values that much of society has been putting down are the ones we will survive with.

A bachelor who constantly advocates that people come together, Leo explained that he has not closed the door on marriage for himself, but that he realized a long time ago that he could not expect a wife to follow him and keep the schedule that he now keeps as a world traveler. He also felt that he could not be a good father and maintain the lifestyle he now enjoys.

When asked his primary goal in life, Leo told about the time he met the Dalai Lama in Tibet. "A reporter asked, 'What is the meaning of life?' The Dalai Lama answered, 'The purpose of life is to help others. And if you can not help them, would you at least not hurt them?'" Leo related.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone of us could dedicate our lives to that proposition?" Leo said. It was obvious that Leo was dedicated to exactly that. He was sincere. He gave this reporter a farewell hug that explained what it was that made Leo tick. Love.



## City recalls street dept. workers

The city's six furloughed street department employees were called back to work Monday, December 12, because the city will receive its allocation of the state's liquid fuels tax early. The recall came just in time for city crews to battle icy streets which made driving conditions almost impossible early Monday morning.

The street department employees were laid off in November when the city ran out of money to pay the

salaries of local government employees. City Administrator Joseph Masco told the NEWS that the city will get the \$80,000 liquid fuels tax allocation for 1983 sometime this week because of lobbying done in Harrisburg last week by the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Union. Masco said the tax money allocated to Carbondale and other cities each year for road repair and to help pay municipal employees who take care of the streets.

The city did not expect the money from the 1983 allocation to arrive until January 6, 1984 but because of Carbondale's current financial situation Masco and AFSCME union Local #7 representatives Frank Schabert and Leo Wagner called Harrisburg on Tuesday, December 6, to ask legislators to speed up Carbondale's share of the fuel tax money. Masco said that the 1984 allocation will not be affected as a result of the city getting its allocation for 1983 early.

## Drunk driver charged with homicide

By MIKE PETROVSKY

The driver of a car which was involved in an accident last Saturday night which claimed the life of his cousin Dennis Petrovsky, a passenger in his vehicle.

Witnesses testified at a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, December 7, that Petrovsky was speeding when the car he was driving struck a vehicle operated by Judith Krantz, 408 Main St., Mayfield.

Nicholas Piro of 128 Cassa St., one of the four passengers in the Krantz car, was injured.

According to further testimony a bottle of Southern Comfort and four quarts of beer were consumed by the five youthful passengers of the

Petrovsky car. Several witnesses testified Robert Petrovsky purchased the Southern Comfort at a State Store in Olyphant and the beer at an Olyphant bar. The Commonwealth testified that Petrovsky's blood alcohol content exceeded the legal figure of 10 per cent.

District Justice Mary McAndrew found the charges of vehicular homicide and driving under the influence over for grand jury action and continued Petrovsky's bail. Asst. Dist. Atty. James J. Walker represented the Commonwealth and Atty. Marjorie DeSanto represented Petrovsky.



LOVE IN ACTION - Photos above show Leo Buscaglia with good friends, Father Andrew Galia (left) and Father Joseph Sica; Mayor Fred Mancuso presenting a key to the city; a hug for mayor-elect Charlotte More; Leo Buscaglia during his lecture; and an appreciative audience. (NEWS Photos)